CLAIMS

1. A method of providing a sub-page of a website to a requesting client comprising the steps of:

sending to the client, with a copy of a first web page, a link which points to an address of a server on which a copy of the sub-page is hosted;

actuating the link; and

displaying an alias for the predetermined address at the client.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein a plurality of links are provided, each pointing to a different address, and each different address being an address of a server on which a copy of the sub-page is hosted.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the alias is an address of a server which is adapted to translate the alias into an address of a server on which a copy of the sub-page is hosted.

4. A method according to claim 1 wherein the alias is displayed on a graphical user interface of a program running on the client which is adapted to enable user navigation of the Internet.

5. A method according to claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

(a) determining, on the basis of a predetermined criterion, whether actuation of the link has been successful in obtaining the sub-page;

(b) if not, actuating another of the links; and

repeating steps (a) and (b) until the first to occur of: all of the links have been actuated; and actuation of a link has been successful in accordance with the predetermined criterion.

6. A method according to claim 5 wherein the alias displayed is the same for each of the links actuated.

7. A method according to claim 5 wherein the predetermined criterion is whether, within a predetermined period of time, a predetermined step in a process of establishing connection with a server has been reached.

8. A method according to claim 7 wherein the predetermined step is completion of a connection with a server.

9. A method according to claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

actuating each of the links simultaneously;

on the basis of a predetermined criterion, selecting one of the actuated links, and terminating all of the others.

10. A method according to claim 9 wherein the predetermined criterion is the greatest progress in establishing full connection with one of the servers after a specified interval of time following simultaneous actuation of all links.

11. A method of operating a web server to provide a sub-page of a website to a requesting client, comprising the steps of:

receiving from a client a request for a first web page hosted on the server;

sending to the client, with the first page, a link which points to an address within the Internet of a further server hosting a copy of the sub-page; and

sending with the first web page instructions which are executable upon actuation of the link to cause a browser programme to display an alias of the address of the further server.

12. A method according to claim 11 wherein a plurality of links are sent to the client with the first page, each pointing to a different predetermined address within the Internet, each predetermined address being an address of a further server hosting a copy of the sub-page, and the instructions are executable upon actuation of each link.

13. A method according to claim 11, wherein the alias is an address of a server adapted to translate the alias to an address of one of the further servers.

14. A method according to claim 11 further comprising the step of sending, in conjunction with the plurality of links, further instructions actuable upon actuation of one of the links to:

(a) determine on the basis of a predetermined criterion, whether actuation of the link has been successful in obtaining the sub-page;

(b) if not, to actuate another of the links; and

repeat steps (a) and (b) until the first to occur of: all of the links have been actuated; and actuation of a link has been successful in accordance with the predetermined criterion.

15. A method according to claim 14 wherein the links are actuated in a predetermined order established prior to dispatch from the web server.

16. A method according to claim 15 wherein the alias displayed is the same for each of the links actuated.

17. A method according to claim 15 wherein the predetermined criterion is whether, within a predetermined period of time, a predetermined step in a process of establishing connection with a further server has been reached.

18. A method according to claim 17 wherein the predetermined step is completion of a connection with a further server.

19. A method according to claim 13 further comprising the step of sending, in conjunction with the plurality of links, further instructions, actuable upon actuation of one of the links to:

actuate each of the links simultaneously;

select, on the basis of a predetermined criterion, one of the actuated links, and terminate all of the others.

20. A method according to claim 19 wherein the predetermined criterion is the greatest progress in establishing full connection with one of the further servers after a specified interval of time following simultaneous actuation of all links.

21. A web server adapted to respond to a request from a client by sending to the client a copy of a first web page and to include with the first web page a plurality of links each of which points to a different predetermined address within the Internet, each predetermined address being an address of a further server, the web server being adapted to send with the first web page and in response to said request, instructions executable, upon actuation of one of the plurality of links, to instruct a browser program in the client to display an alias of the predetermined address.

22. A method of obtaining a sub-page from a website comprising the steps of:

requesting from a web server a copy of a first web page;

actuating a link on the first web page which points to an address within the Internet of a further server hosting a copy of the sub-page; and

actuating code associated with the link to cause a browser programme to display an alias of the address of the further server.